

Today, less than one hundred days before the 200th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we observe the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, a giant in history who yet today excites scholars, inspires political leaders and continues to grace our history as its most articulate champion of individual freedom.

Pursuant to Proclamation No. 2276 of March 21, 1938, our Nation has formally celebrated the 13th of April in honor of the birthday, in 1743 of this great man. In our Bicentennial Year, it is fitting that we celebrate this day in a special way, as the Congress has requested (H.J. Res. 670). 52 Stat. 1537.
Ante, p. 328.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby request the observance of Tuesday, April 13, 1976, as Thomas Jefferson Day.

I ask all Americans, in their homes, their schools, and their places of work, to reflect on the life and times of Thomas Jefferson. I urge every American to reflect on the meaning and purpose of the Declaration of Independence and the many other works of Thomas Jefferson and to participate in other appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

EDITORIAL NOTE: The President's remarks of Apr. 13, 1976, on the commemoration of Thomas Jefferson's birth, are printed in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 12, p. 646).

Proclamation 4431

April 14, 1976

Loyalty Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The idea that a free people—dedicated to the rule of law, freedom of expression, and equality—have the inherent right, ability, and duty to govern themselves, is one that compels our devotion and dedication.

Such allegiance, grounded in a "solemn sense of God's superintending Providence," is the bulwark upon which this Nation was built and has endured for two hundred years.

Recognizing the need for "a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom", the Congress, by a joint resolution approved July 18, 1958 (72 Stat. 369, 36 U.S.C. 162), designated May 1 of each year as Loyalty Day.

In our Bicentennial Year, it is especially fitting that we dramatize in a positive way the principles of freedom which have guided us through two centuries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, call upon the people of the United States and upon patriotic, civic, and educational organizations to observe Saturday, May 1, 1976, as Loyalty Day, with appropriate ceremonies.

I call upon appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on that day in testimony of our loyalty to this Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4432

April 14, 1976

National Maritime Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Maritime enterprise is one of the keystones upon which America's economic strength has developed. The spirit and vitality of this great Nation have been linked with the sea for more than 200 years. As we celebrate this Bicentennial year, all Americans should be aware of our proud maritime heritage.

After winning independence, the Founding Fathers considered shipping and trade so crucial to the survival of the new Nation that five of the initial acts passed by the first Congress were designed to foster American trade and maritime development.

Over the years, in war and peace, the American merchant marine has served the Nation. Today, in its position of world leadership, the United States continues to rely on its maritime industries. Shipping, shipbuilding, and the vast flow of trade through our ports contribute to the Nation's economic development and security.

To promote public awareness of our maritime heritage, the Congress, in 1933 (48 Stat. 73, 36 U.S.C. 145) designated the anniversary of the first transatlantic voyage by a steamship, the SS SAVANNAH, on May 22, 1819, as National Maritime Day, and requested the President to issue a proclamation annually in observance of that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby urge the people of the United States to honor our American merchant marine on May 22, 1976, by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes and other suitable places, and I request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD